REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing in advance of the initial Office Action is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment, claims 1-21 and 23-27 have been amended and claim 28 has been canceled to conform the foreign language originating text to U.S. practice.

Early allowance of the pending claims is hereby earnestly solicited.

Date: <u>9-10-03</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M./Noto

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